



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of)
Nestor Kolcio) Examiner Katherine M. Moran
Application No.: 09/954,788) Group Art Unit 3765
)
For: Method for Accessing Electrical)
Components With Gloved Hands)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

#3/a
+ Declaration
10-4-02

Amendment and Response

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

Claims 1, 2, 8 and 9 have been amended as follows:

Claim 1, line 2, delete "less than" and after rms add - - and below - -;

lines 3 & 4, delete "of Class 00 meeting the ASTM Standard Specification for Rubber Insulating Gloves" and add - - effective to electrically insulate a gloved hand from said electrical components.

Claim 2, line 18, delete "the" and replace with - - said - -;

lines 19 & 20, delete "Class 00 meeting the ASTM Standard Specification for Rubber Insulating Gloves" and add - - effective electrical insulation - -.

Claim 8, lines 8 & 9, delete "of Class 0 meeting the ASTM Standard Specification for Rubber Insulating Gloves" and add - - electrical components said glove having inward fingertip regions - -.

Claim 9, lines 24 & 25, delete "Class 0 ASTM Standard Specification for Rubber Insulating Gloves" and add - - effective electrical insulator - -.

Response

It is noted that claims 1-14 have been rejected under §112 of the Patent Statute as being indefinite. In this regard, the Examiner has indicated that claims 1 and 8 recite a rubber insulating glove meeting the ASTM Standard Specification for Rubber Insulating Gloves. The Examiner indicated that this standard is subject to change.

Claims 1, 2 8 and 9 have been amended with the instant response to remove the ASTM representation.

It is further noted that claims 2 and 9 were rejected as reciting the limitation of "the inward fingertip regions" without antecedent basis. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to insert a fingertip region antecedent.

It is noted that claims 1, 6-8, 13 and 14 have been rejected under §103 of the Patent Statute as being unpatentable over Barnett, et al., U. S. Patent No. 4,536,890 (Barnett, et al.). In applying this rejection, the Examiner has indicated that Barnett, et al. teaches a method of using a rubber insulating glove with a non-conductive adhesively retained flock lining on a palm and back interior, for accessing low-voltage electrical components. As set forth in the enclosed declaration by Mr. Kolcio, one of the named inventors, the glove described in Barnett, et al., is one intended for clean room fabrication of presumably electrical components. The glove is worn in combination with protective garments such as caps, smocks or gowns and the like and its function is to protect electrical equipment from contamination. For the most part, such equipment will not be electrically energized whatsoever and the patent makes no mention of high voltages or the like. Next, while the involved glove is not described as being electrically insulating nor is the flock employed described as being electrically insulating, such is a requisite for the instant method. It may be noted, that the method claimed anticipates that the wearer will remove the gloves in the course of accessing electrical equipment. That is because these gloves, by their insulating mandated nature are very uncomfortable, for example, heat build-up with sweat leads to discomfort at times within about two minutes. The objective of the method is to make it easy to take them off as opposed to the glove of Barnett, et al., which is flocked to make it comfortable.

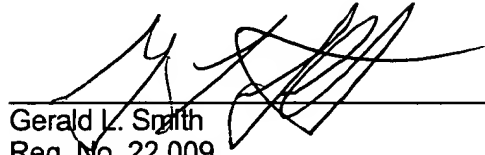
It is noted that claims 2-5 and 9-12 have been rejected under § 103(a) being unpatentable over Barnett, et al., in view of Ganz, U. S. Patent No. 3,883,899 (Ganz). In applying this rejection, the Examiner has cited Ganz as showing ridges on an exterior inward fingertip and palm region to enhance gripping. To the contrary, Ganz teaches an imploding of the surface of the glove to create craters with an objective to enhancing gripping ability during surgery. As noted in the annexed declaration, such a roughening will permit contaminants to collect within and be trapped within the crater-like structures to defeat the necessary dielectric property of the glove. The method of the instant invention utilizes ridges as a roughening while maintaining the effective electrical insulation so necessary for the task at hand. These roughening techniques of Ganz would compromise the method now claimed.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon has been reviewed by the applicant. Apparently, the Examiner recognizes that these additional references, taken singularly or in combination, fail to militate against the patentability of the invention claimed.

In view of foregoing remarks wherein the claim program as amended has been seen to

clearly distinguish over the references of record, issuance of a Notice of Allowance respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



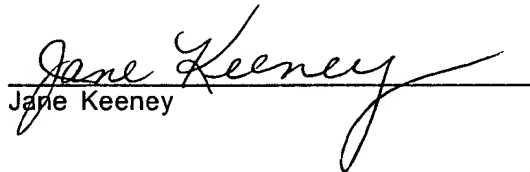
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enc: declaration under 37 CFR 1.132

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on Sept 19, 2002 with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

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Jane Keeney